

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### **Development of Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Under Low Reservoir Conditions**

### **Process and Schedule**

**Arizona Colorado River Shortage Sharing Stakeholder  
Workshop – Phoenix, AZ**

**July 22, 2005**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation**

# Outline

## Management Strategies

- Setting
- Objectives
- Process
- Schedule

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# Setting

- Drought conditions have impacted storage in the Colorado system
- To date, there has never been a shortage in the Lower Basin and there are currently no shortage guidelines
- Seven Basin States are discussing potential operational scenarios to lessen the impacts of drought conditions
- May 2005 – Secretary directed Reclamation to engage in a process to develop operational guidelines for Lakes Powell and Mead and Lower Basin shortage guidelines

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# Setting

- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Federal Register notice to solicit comments on content, format, mechanisms and analysis to be considered to address drought and other management challenges
- Examples of management challenges:
  - Drought
  - Level of development
  - Decreasing system storage

# Objectives

- Develop additional operational guidelines for Reclamation to apply in its annual operations
- Address potentially resolvable issues
- Avoid unnecessary, protracted or destabilizing litigation

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# Content and Format

- Lower Basin shortage guidelines
- Lake Mead/Lake Powell operations under low reservoir conditions
- Other?



# Mechanisms

- Implement through Annual Operating Plan
- Modify Long-Range Operating Criteria
- Formal rulemaking
- Interim v. permanent guidelines
- Other?

# Schedule

- Federal Register notice issued on June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Public Meetings:
    - July 26<sup>th</sup> Henderson, NV
    - July 28<sup>th</sup> Salt Lake City, UT
  - Comment period closes August 31, 2005
- Complete public process by December 2007
- Other – ongoing discussions among the Basin States

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Public comments must be received by close of business,  
4:00 p.m. PDT, Wednesday, August 31, 2005

Submit by mail, faxogram or e-mail to:

Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Region  
Attention: BCOO-1000  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, Nevada  
89006-1470  
fax number 702-293-8156  
e-mail: [strategies@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:strategies@lc.usbr.gov)

Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Upper Colorado Region  
Attention: UC-402  
125 South State Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
84318-1147  
fax number 801-524-3858  
e-mail: [strategies@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:strategies@uc.usbr.gov)

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